

Appl. No. 09/914,526
Atty. Docket No. 7472
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A detergent particle comprising:
 - i) a particle core comprising a detergent active material, said core being an agglomerate having a surface with irregularities and crevices, and
 - ii) a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer comprising a water soluble coating material, wherein said coating material is a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material; wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 10% and wherein said detergent active material in said particle core comprises a blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients wherein said blend of surfactants and dry detergent ingredients comprises a blend of anionic surfactants and alkali metal carbonates.
2. (cancelled)
3. (currently amended) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 2 1 wherein said water soluble non-hydrating material is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal carbonate salts, alkali metal sulfate salts, and mixtures thereof.
4. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material is the double salt $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$ in a weight ratio of Na_2SO_4 to Na_2CO_3 of from about 80:20 to about 20:80.
5. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the weight ratio of Na_2SO_4 to Na_2CO_3 is from about 75:25 to about 60:40.
6. (currently amended) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 2 1 wherein said particle coating layer further includes a detergent adjunct material.

Appl. No. 09/914,526
Atty. Docket No. 7472
Customer No. 27752

7. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 6 wherein said detergent adjunct material is selected from the group consisting of brighteners, pigments, chelants, nonionic surfactants, pH control ingredients, detergency co-builders and mixtures thereof.
8. (cancelled)
9. (cancelled)
10. (cancelled)
11. (currently amended) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 10 1 wherein said blend further comprises an additional detergent builder material.
12. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 20%.
13. (previously presented) The detergent particle as claimed in Claim 12 wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 30%.
14. (previously presented) A detergent composition comprising:
 - a) from 1% to 99% of a detergent particle according to Claim 1; and
 - b) the balance detergent adjunct ingredients.
15. (New) A detergent particle comprising:
 - i) a particle core comprising a detergent active material, said core being an agglomerate having a surface with irregularities and crevices, and
 - ii) a particle coating layer at least partially covering said particle core, said particle coating layer comprising a water soluble coating material, wherein said coating material is a water soluble, non-hydrating inorganic material; wherein said particle coating layer provides a surface area reduction of at least about 10% and wherein said detergent active material in said particle core comprises an anionic surfactant and a builder.

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